

Paper on Fahrenheit 451
by Alexander Lozupone

Underline
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When Ray Bradbury wrote his novel, Fahrenheit 451, he meant for it to be a glimpse into the future; approximately four decades into the future. This insinuates that the world we live in today would, in fact, be the world discussed in the book, as predicted by Bradbury.

Many people would immediately insist that Bradbury's predictions were way off base. It can be said that, first off, this extreme censorship does not exist, and neither does this hidden, lying government. The world is not full of the complex technology discussed in the book, either. We do not have huge "walls" which resemble large televisions, which combine to form a large room, for the purpose of being overwhelmed in, and lastly, firemen still have the job of putting out fires.

This analysis is not at all wrong, at least superficially. However, if you delve deeper into the book, you will find he was not that far away from the truth, either. This book is not a book about futuristic technology, or about a typical 'man-versus-government' war. Rather, it is about man in general, and his battle against censorship, and conformity. well put

Perfect < In Bradbury's world, people will walk into a sort of entertainment room, and be overwhelmed by so-called entertainment. Just sitting there and watching, taking everything in, yet taking nothing in. They are just fed a mindless sort of soap opera, and, rather than digesting this audio-visual food, they let it go right through the system. Although this sort of extreme ignorance is not prevalent today, one can see how it relates. Many people would come home from work, and happily sit down in front of their television, taking in the entertainment in much the same way Bradbury's people do.

Although some television does offer beneficial information, a large portion of it is almost mindless entertainment, much like that in Bradbury's world. Some people would say that television also enforces things such as moral values, and teaches one how to be "safe" (as in from drugs and disease). However, this may be exactly what Bradbury was

attacking in his book, the feeding of information, of values and rules, into the minds of people, with any sort of reason. Many commercials feed mindless morals into the unsuspecting watchers' minds, such as the famous saying, "Just Say No." This sort of enforcing without reason is exactly the sort of thing prevalent in Bradbury's book.

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True

Another issue tackled in Fahrenheit 451 was a more complicated issue. Beatty explained to Montag the philosophy behind destroying books. Originally, there was a majority, or several majorities, and the minorities. Things could be written by the majorities, and if a minority didn't like it, there wouldn't be enough people in the minority to complain about it. However, as population grew, more and more people entered these minorities. Eventually, it became too much trouble, with nearly every book in existence insulting at least one large minority. So, in order to preserve peace and happiness, anything insulting anyone must be banned.

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One does not need to look very far to find that this philosophy exists today. Some books are actually not allowed in the school curriculum in certain Southern states, because of racial slurs that may exist in the books. Recently, Howard Stern's radio show and television series were cancelled in many areas, due to the show insulting certain people. If this elimination of insulting media were to continue, we may very well exist in a world much like that of Fahrenheit 451.

A third aspect of Ray Bradbury's novel is that of the "seashells." These small devices play a role very similar to that of the walkman in today's society. You put them over your ear(s), and can easily shut out everything else. Bradbury's society had people constantly using them, not talking to each other, but merely listening to the programs on the seashells. This is prevalent in today's society as well, with people constantly wandering around on the streets, or in the trains, paying attention only to the speakers located near their ears, and not to what's really happening around them. Some people become so engrossed in the walkman-type devices that they actually don't pay attention to traffic,

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and get hit by cars. This sort of shutting out of the real world is something Bradbury put some emphasis on, and something that is definitely happening today. Bradbury himself even saw his world coming to life decades ago, when he saw a woman with sort-of headphones on, walking with a man a dog, but completely oblivious to her companions.

One famous saying pertains rather well to this comparison of Fahrenheit 451 and what really happened: "Although the names change, the situation stays the same." This is very similar to the comparison of these two worlds. Although technology advanced differently in both places, and the case of affairs in Fahrenheit 451 is more drastic (or at least seems so), the situation is indeed similar. Both involve a world in which society limits itself, and force feeds itself information, without giving itself the time to digest what it's been eating.

The good thing is people like him take notice of that

Much to the point of it all —

Every sentence speaks to the point you are stressing. These facts are clear to people who wish to be in touch & rejected as fantasy or trivial to those who don't see the urgency in waking up!

A+

Well seen & strongly stated.